



## Space Heater Sense

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It's back! The cold weather is here. Suddenly, space heaters are popping up everywhere, and of course, there are dangers that come with these appliances.

Even though electric space heaters don't have an open flame, the heating elements of some types of electric heaters are hot enough to ignite flammable liquids and nearby combustibles like draperies, paper, clothing, and furniture. It is, therefore, important to check surrounding objects periodically to see if they feel hot. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that might burn, including the wall.

To prevent electrocutions, always keep portable electric heaters away from water. Never use them in a bathroom or near a sink. If you must use an appliance near water, always use a ground fault circuit interrupter.

### SPACE HEATER SPECIFICATIONS



- Must be electrically powered and must not take more than 110 volts of electricity to operate. Fuel powered space heaters, such as PROPANE and KEROSENE, are not permitted.
- Must have a tip-over shutdown feature. If a space heater is knocked over, the unit must automatically shut off.
- Must be UL (Underwriters Laboratory), or FM (Factory Mutual) approved, and must be labeled accordingly.
- Must have a thermostat that shuts unit off when a certain temperature is reached.
- Must be fan driven.
- Space heaters with heated coils are not permitted.



Space Heater Too Close to  
Combustible Materials

## Specifications for Electric Space Heaters Use

- ✓ **Must be kept at least three (3) feet away from any combustible material.**
- ✓ **Turn off and unplug the heater when the area being heated is not occupied.**
- ✓ **Nothing should ever be placed on top of or touching a space heater.**
- ✓ **Always plug into a wall receptacle.**



Space Heater Too Close to Combustible Material

- ✓ **Need to be located in plain sight and clearly visible.**
- ✓ **Hot plates and toaster ovens should never be used for space heating.**
- ✓ **Your Building Manager should be contacted if it is felt there is inadequate heat in any work area.**
- ✓ **Never plug space heaters into dedicated data receptacles.**

**If there is a problem with accessibility to electricity, or electrical outlets, please contact your building manager.**

**Space heaters that create a hazard or are inappropriate to a particular location will be declared "unapproved" and will be removed.**

*This message should be distributed to all employees via delivery of un-addressed copies to Fermilab mail stations.  
Suggestions for ES&H message topics should be directed to Mary Logue at [grace@fnal.gov](mailto:grace@fnal.gov) or X6329.*